

Earth Science Syllabus

Instructor

Mr. Maldonado

Leuzinger High School

4118 W. Rosecrans Avenue

Lawndale, California 90260

Telephone: (310) 263-2200

Fax: (310) 675-7023

Email: maldonadoo@centinela.k12.ca.us

Website:

http://www.leuzinger.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=90220&type=u&rn=5343309

Course Description

Earth Science

This course features hands-on involvement where students will be expected to perform experiments, handle equipment, and view demonstrations which will reinforce the concept covered in the coursework and will be designed to encourage students to investigate ideas and issues that make up current understanding of science and technology.

Seating Arrangement

A seating chart will be established at the teacher's discretion, with exceptions made for students who have special needs. The seating chart is subject to change at any time in the interest of maintaining a positive classroom environment.

Classroom rules

Students will be required to abide by the following six simple rules:

1. Obey all school rules. If it's against school rules, it's against the rules of the classroom
2. Come to Class and Be on Time
3. Respect yourself, the teacher, and all of your classmates
4. Don't talk back to, or otherwise "show up" the teacher
(Students are encouraged to share their views. Do so respectfully)
5. No Food or Gum in the classroom.
6. Do your own work. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Rules Enforcement

All students will be informed of the rules, and what is expected of them will be made explicitly clear, therefore any violation of school and/or classroom rules will be dealt with in accordance to established guidelines determined by the school. In the classroom, all students will be given the benefit of a single warning before any disciplinary action is taken (this does not include serious offenses or violations of general school-wide or district-wide policies such as tardy/truancy, dress code, weapons, or controlled substance violations which will be dealt with swiftly and in accordance with existing school/district policies).

Materials

It is important that students come to class prepared and ready to learn each and everyday. Therefore, they should have the following supplies with them in class each day (in the event a student cannot obtain any of the required supplies, please inform the teacher and arrangements will be made to provide students with what they need) :

1. Science Log: a three-ring binder in which to keep their notes and assignments throughout the semester.
2. Planner.
3. Paper for taking notes and quizzes as well as for completing in-class writing assignments.
4. Pens and pencils.
5. Colored pencils, pens or crayons (not required but recommended).
6. Calculator (if possible, a scientific calculator. The calculator on your cellphone is not acceptable, as **use of cellphones is prohibited**).
7. Ruler (should include metric units).
8. Glue stick or stapler (not required but certainly recommended).

Basic Classroom Procedures

Entering the classroom – Students should enter the classroom quietly and be in their assigned seats when the tardy bell rings. Backpacks should be under desks or tables and not in the aisles.

Once the bell rings – Students should check the board and their student planners to see what assignments are due, and write any new assignments in their planners.

Hall/Restroom Passes – Students will only be allowed to leave the classroom in the case of an emergency. School policy requires that these emergencies be documented. Use your passing periods wisely. Misuse of bathroom emergencies will result in a referral to the office.

Planner – Students will be required to write down their homework assignments in some sort of planner on a daily basis. If there is no homework they will write “None”. I will initial or stamp all planners daily, in order to give all parents a way to verify homework assignments. Additionally, assignments will be posted on the teacher website so that they can see what they missed when absent, and to provide parents with yet another resource for verifying homework assignments.

Finishing work early – Students that finish class work ahead of the rest of their classmates, should begin homework, do free reading, or ask the teacher if there is anything they can do to help out. Disrupting others and interfering with their learning will not be tolerated. Remember rule #2: respect all of your classmates.

Reading assignments – Regular reading assignments from the textbook will be given. In order that students prove that they have read the assigned material, they will be asked to answer the review questions at the end of each section. Like homework assignments, reading assignments will be listed on the class website.

Keeping a science log – Students will be provided with everything they need to keep up their science logs. All assignments and classwork will be kept in a science log, which students will use to review and study for exams, as well as periodically receive grades for its completeness.

Log check – At some point during each unit, I will do a random log check where students will be expected to have their science logs up to date and ready to be reviewed. At this time, any missing work that is included in the science log will be given partial credit. In other words, if a student has a missing assignment they can include it in their science log and the zero they previously received will be replaced with a portion of the points they would have received had the assignment been turned in on time.

Getting student's attention – The phrase I use most frequently to get the attention of the class is “Okay, listen up.” This means that students need to close their mouths, open their ears and face the teacher. I will not shout or try to talk over the class. I will just wait until it quiets down and then will take the time back after the bell or during detention. Any student causing a disruption will be removed from the classroom at the teacher's discretion.

The bell at the end of the period – Remember, the bell does not dismiss the students, the teacher does. Students must be quiet and sitting in their assigned seats. When the teacher says “Have a nice day/weekend”, this means that the students have been dismissed. Students will be expected to leave class in an orderly manner.

Study buddies – Each student should have a study buddy (in the rare case that a student does not have a study buddy, a group of 3 will be formed. Your study buddy is the person sitting in the desk connected to yours. They are who you talk to if you miss anything. If they can't help you, if they are struggling, or if there are any problems, talk to the teacher.

Notes and Assignment Postings – Class Notes and Assignments are posted on the class website the weekend prior to each class. This allows students to prepare for classes ahead of time.

Keeping up when absent – If a student misses school, the first thing they should do is contact their study buddy. Next, check the Daily Assignment Log. It is the student's responsibility to get their assignments and make up any missed work, not the teacher's. Students will have 3 school days following an absence to hand in work that was missed during their absence.

Late work grading policy

All class work and homework is expected to be turned in on time. All work turned in past its due date (except following an excused absence) will have 50% deducted and will only be accepted the next day (otherwise you can only get points as part of the science log).

Grading Scale

This class and all the assignments in this class will be graded on a standard grading scale, with no bell curve. If all students complete the work assigned in an accurate and timely manner, it is possible for every student to earn an "A". The standard grading scale is as follows:

100-90% = A
90-80% = B
80-70% = C
70-60% = D
<59% = F

Cheating and Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated, whether it is in the form of plagiarism (citing someone else's work as your own), copying someone else's work, or providing someone with answers. Being caught cheating, will not only earn you a bad grade, but will also be met with serious consequences in accordance with school policy.

Teacher's Message to Parents – September 2009

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased to have been charged with the responsibility of being your child's science teacher for this school year, and am looking forward to meeting you personally at "Back to School Night".

I promise you that I will do everything in my power to provide your child with the best learning environment possible, and to make their learning experience as productive and beneficial as I can. In my Biology class, I will not only try to teach them about the study of the life and the properties of living things, but I will also seek to help them develop life-long study and citizenship skills, as well as be a positive role model for them while they are at school.

While the material being presented to your student this year will certainly be challenging and require them to work hard, I expect that they will have a fun and will find this class very rewarding. To this end, I ask that you assist me in making sure that your student makes the most of the time they spend in my classroom by reviewing this syllabus with them and helping me make sure that they fully understand what is expected of them.

I also request that you fill out the information below, sign this form, and have your student sign this form as well, in order that we might be able to more easily communicate, and so that I can be sure that you and your child fully understand the expectations I will be placing upon them.

I am looking forward to working with you and your student this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns that you may have. My contact information is included at the beginning of the attached syllabus, and I will be sending out a follow-up email to parents as soon as my class website is up and running, in order to let you know where to go to check your child's grades, homework assignments, etc...

Warmest Regards,

Mr. Osvaldo Maldonado

Student Name (Printed) _____ Date _____ Period _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Email _____

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone Number _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Feel free to include any comments on the back of this paper if needed.

*Please return this form to the teacher no later than **9/8/2008**, as it will be counted as a homework assignment.*

Mensaje a los Padres – Septiembre 2009

Estimados Padres,

Estoy muy orgulloso de estar encargado con la responsabilidad de ser el maestro de ciencias de su hijo/hija para este año escolar. Anticipo con placer la oportunidad de servirles además de conocerlos personalmente durante “Back to School Night”.

Les prometo que hare todo lo possible para que su hijo/hija tenga un ambiente favorable en donde pueda aprender. En mi clase de ciencia, no solo deseo intruir a su alumno sobre lo basico de las Ciencias Biologicas (Biology), sino tambien me esforzare para ayudarlos desarrollar buenos habitos de estudio y tambien servirles de buen ejemplo mientras esten en la escuela.

Aunque se que el material presentado en este curso es dificil y le costara trabajo a su hijo/hija, espero que se divierten y que les sea de provecho. Con esta meta en mente, les pido que me ayuden asegurar que ellos le saquen el mayor provecho possible a mi clase. Les pido que revisen las reglas y procedimientos que estan junto con esta carta con su hijo/hija para que juntos podemos asegurar que ellos tengan la mejor oportunidad de superarse en sus estudios, y tambien para que ellos esten claro de lo yo espero de ellos.

Tambien les pido que completen y que firmen la forma que se encuentra al fondo de esta carta, y que su alumno/alumna tambien firma donde le corresponde, para que de esta forma poder mas facilmente comunicarme con ustedes si es necesario.

Ya saben, como el maestro de su hijo/hija, estoy aqui para serviles en lo que se puede, asi que hablame sin vacilacion si en algo les puedo ayudar. Yo hablo español y estoy a sus ordenes. Cualquier cosa, se pueden comunicar conmigo utilizando la informacion incluido al principio de este documento.

Attentamente,

Sr. Osvaldo Maldonado

Nombre de Estudiante _____ Fecha _____

Nombre de Padre/Guardian _____

Email de Padre/Guardian _____

Numero de telefono de Padre durante horas escolares _____

Firma de Estudiante _____

Firma de Padre/Guardian _____

Favor de regresar esta hoja con su hijo/hija 9/8/2008